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CHAPTER I

The Population of the Austrian Republic

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THE former Austro-Hungarian Monarchy has fallen a victim to the working of the principle of nationality according to which political boundaries and those of language communities should be identical. It may, therefore, not seem unexpedient to begin a contemplation of the resident population in one of its newly formed states with a review of the distribution of the inhabitants of the old Danubian Monarchy according to their language.¹

A CLASSIFICATION OF THE POPULATION OF THE FORMER DANUBIAN MONARCHY BY LANGUAGE *

	AUSTRIA		HUNGARY		BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA		AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN MONARCHY	
	<i>Absolute numbers</i>	<i>Per- centage</i>	<i>Absolute numbers</i>	<i>Per- centage</i>	<i>Absolute numbers</i>	<i>Per- centage</i>	<i>Absolute numbers</i>	<i>Per- centage</i>
Germans . . .	9,950,678	34.83	2,037,435	9.75	22,968	1.21	12,011,081	23.39
Magyars . . .	10,899	0.04	10,050,575	48.12	6,443	0.34	10,067,917	19.61
Czechs	6,435,532	22.52	.....	....	7,045	0.37	6,442,577	12.54
Slovakians ^b	^b	^b	1,967,970	9.42	482	0.03	1,968,452	3.83
Poles	4,965,667	17.38	^c	^c	10,975	0.58	4,976,642	9.69
Ukrainians . .	3,518,882	12.32	472,587	2.26	7,431	0.39	3,998,900	7.79
Slovenians . .	1,253,148	4.39	^c	^c	3,108	0.16	1,256,256	2.45
Croatians } Serbians }	783,010	2.74	1,833,162 1,106,471	8.78 5.30	1,822,564	96.02	5,545,207	10.80
Roumanians	275,088	0.96	2,949,032	14.12	608	0.03	3,224,728	6.28
Italians and Ladinians	768,592	2.69	^c	^c	2,462	0.13	771,054	1.50
Sundry others ^c . . .	.....	.....	469,255	2.25	13,958	0.74	483,213	0.94
Foreigners ^d .	609,304	2.13	^d	^d	^d	^d	609,304	1.18
	28,570,800	100	20,886,487	100	1,898,044	100	51,355,331	100

^a Language of daily commerce in Austria, mother-tongue in Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

^b The Slovakians being numbered among the Czechs in Austria, the number of the latter would appear a little too high, that of the former a little too small.

^c In Hungary, the Poles, Slovenians, Italians and Ladinians are included in "Sundry others."

^d In Austria the foreigners were excluded from the census relating to the question of language, not so in Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

¹ See *Oesterreichische Statistik* N. F. Vol. 1, Part 2, Vienna 1914; *Magyar Statisztikai Közlemények*, Vol. 42, Budapest 1912; *Die Ergebnisse der Volkszählung von Bosnien und Herzegovina*, Sarajevo 1912. Foreigners may best find these figures in *Annuaire Internationale de Statistique*, Vol. 1, Page 143 ff., Haag 1916.

The number of the inhabitants of Austria-Hungary speaking German amounted to nearly ten millions or almost 35 per cent, and, together with the 126,393 subjects of the German Empire and other German-speaking foreigners, to more than ten millions. In Hungary, alone, their number exceeded two millions, thus forming one-tenth of the entire population. This total number of over 12 million Germans in the Danubian Monarchy—of which over 9.4 millions inhabited an area of 119,000 square kilometers, a compact territory with a population speaking exclusively German, and bordering on the German Empire²—was, during the existence of the Danubian Monarchy, a factor of some importance, but with respect to the intellectual rather than to the political life, the three parts in which the Monarchy was divided (Austria, Hungary and Bosnia-Herzegovina) being quite independent of each other as far as their politic of nationality was concerned. Great importance attaches to those figures, however, as illustrative of the working of the principle of nationality after the dismemberment of the old Monarchy. For while the majority of the other nations of the disintegrated Monarchy succeeded in realizing the principle of nationality,³ the German-speaking inhabitants had to face very grave opposing influences. Indeed, representatives of the compact German territories, elected by universal, equal and secret elections, met in a National Assembly in Vienna immediately after the Revolution, and solemnly and unanimously passed a law which pronounced

these territories to belong together and to form one single state, the National State of German-Austria.⁴ The foundation of this state, an example of the formation of a state by the right of national self-determination, has, however, not been acknowledged by the Council of Four in Paris.

The new Austrian state, while it was compelled to adopt the name of Republic of Austria, had to give up a territory of 26,869 kilometers with 3,122,839 German-speaking inhabitants to the Czecho-Slovakian Republic, a territory of 7,318 kilometers with 228,447 German-speaking inhabitants to Italy, and likewise some rather large districts with a German majority to Jugo-Slavia. This loss of territories with their population was particularly painful, as the territories yielded up to Czecho-Slovakia were some of them remarkable for their abundance in coal and manufactures (German-Bohemia) and others for their agricultural productivity (German-South Moravia), while with the Dolomite district Austria lost a center of attraction for tourists throughout the world.

GEOGRAPHICAL FRONTIERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA

The new frontier of the Republic of Austria as fixed by the Treaty of St. Germain takes almost the same course as the old boundaries of the provinces of Lower⁵ and Upper Austria towards

² See the detailed statement on the cover of my map of languages in Central Europe, Vienna, Hermann Goldschmiedt, 1921.

³ The Czechs obtained an independant state of their own, the Poles, Roumanians, Southern Slavs and Italians were united with their motherlands.

⁴ See: *Staatsgesetzblatt für den Staat Deutschösterreich*, No. 1 ex 1918 (Resolution of the Provisional National-Assembly of German-Austria, dated 30th of October, concerning the fundamental institutions of the supreme power); No. 40 ex 1918 (Law dated 22nd of November, 1918, concerning area, frontiers and relations of the territory of German-Austria); No. 4 ex 1919 (Decree *Vollzugsanweisung* of the German-Austrian Staatsrat, State-council, dated the 3rd January, 1919, concerning the districts of jurisdiction, municipalities and villages, which should form the territory of German-Austria.

⁵ Deviations are to be found in the districts of

Czecho-Slovakia on the north. Then it runs along the old boundary line towards Bavaria and Switzerland, abandoning the same, however, south-west of Nauders and, turning eastward over the ridge of the Central-Alps (the Alps of the Oetzal, the Stubai and the Zillertal, and the Brenner Pass) cuts the German territory of the Tyrol in two.⁶ Starting from the Dreiherrnspitze in the Hohe Tauern it first runs south and then southeast, following on the whole the southern frontier of Carinthia (Carnishian Alps, and Karawanks) at the same time sequestering the district of Tarvis and two smaller districts in southern and northeastern Carinthia. Farther north of the Drave, the frontier takes in the main and eastward course as far as Radkersburg, whereby important German territories, among them Mahrenberg and Marburg have fallen to the share of the Jugo-Slav Kingdom.⁷ The eastern frontier of the Republic of Austria follows at first a tract of the former frontier of the Empire northeast of Radkersburg, then deviates to the northeast, following in general the frontier determined by language and embracing German-West Hungary, the so-called "Burgenland."

Lundenburg, Feldsberg and Gmünd, some parts of Lower-Austria being given up to Czecho-Slovakia.

⁶ For this and for the following see: "Flugschriften für Deutsch-Oesterreichs Recht," Vienna 1919.

⁷ See: *Die Südgrenze der deutschen Steiermark*, memoir of the Academic Senate of the University of Graz, Graz 1919. The territory hemmed in by the frontier of the German language at Marburg, by the Bacher-range and a part of the frontier of Carinthia, is inhabited by 40,080 Germans (= 52.4 per cent) and 36,310 Slovenes (= 47.5 per cent). It is further remarkable, that this frontier cuts off the only direct railway communication (Leibnitz-Marburg-Klagenfurt) between the provinces of Styria and Carinthia which are separated by the 'Kor-Alp.' So the whole traffic between the inhabitants of these provinces must be carried through a foreign country, unless the people prefer to take the

The German town of St. Gotthard remains at Hungary; the frontier then takes its course to the north till it reaches the Neusiedler Sea. Excluding the German town, Güns, it turns a little eastward, north of the Einser Canal, but bends off northwards to the Danube without embracing the whole of the territory where the German language is spoken excluding, especially, the German towns of Wiesselburg and Ungarisch-Altenburg which like St. Gotthard and Güns have been only quite lately Magyarized. Finally, the frontier follows the Danube and the March.

GENERAL DECREASE IN POPULATION

The territory enclosed within these limits (excluding German-West Hungary which has not been surrendered to Austria and the plebiscite territory of Carinthia) covers an area of 83,944 kilometers. According to the census taken on January 31, 1920,⁸ its population has diminished from 6,294,639 in the year 1910 to 6,067,430, i.e. by 227,209 persons or 3.61 per cent. The main share of this decline falls to the city of Vienna, the population of which has been reduced from 2,031,498 in the year 1910 to 1,842,005 in the year 1920, the reduction reaching the number of 189,493 persons or 9.33 per cent. We may best understand the importance of

round-about way via Graz and Bruck of Mur. Yet the Council of the Four generally made allowances in the interests of traffic even if against the principle of nationality. So for instance the Magyars were given over the wholly German territory of Wieselburg and Ungarisch-Altenburg (belonging to Western Hungary) to secure for them the railway-line from Raab to Pressburg, which is indeed of minor importance for them, than the above line (Leibnitz-Marburg-Klagenfurt) for Austria.

⁸ See: *Beiträge zur Statistik der Republik Oesterreich*, Part 5, *Vorläufige Ergebnisse der ausserordentlichen Volkszählung vom 31. Jänner, 1920 nebst Gemeindeverzeichnis*. Published by the Central Commission for Statistics, Vienna 1920.

these statistic facts if we bear in mind that a healthy population living under normal conditions should increase. This increase amounted in the territory of the present Republic of Austria during the decade from 1900 to 1910, to 10.61 per cent annually, *i.e.* more than one per cent a year.⁹ This statement of a decrease in the year 1920 not only implies the above-mentioned loss of a quarter of a million people, but beyond this it means at the same time an outweighing of the growth the populace must have shown in the pre-war period from 1911 to 1914. We must further consider the reduced

MORTALITY

The figures below may allow us to form an idea of the natural evolution of the populace (*i.e.*, excluding those who died outside the frontiers of the Austrian Republic on the battlefields or in hospitals).¹¹

The number of births has diminished from 153,542 in the last year of peace, 1913, to 87,594, or a decrease of 57.04 per cent, in the year 1918, the last in which these statistics have been published. Taking the sum of the yearly deficit in births we arrive at a total deficit of 227,514 births up to 1918.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATE 1913-1918

Year	Born alive	Deaths	Excess of births over deaths
1913.....	153,542	118,363	35,179
1914.....	151,862	119,462	32,400
1915.....	118,942	140,211	21,269
1916.....	94,199	136,402	42,203
1917.....	87,599	147,384	59,785
1918.....	87,594	166,378	78,784

birth-rate during the war and post-war time, which allows us the computing of the total war loss of this small country at nearly one million souls. The actual war losses due to military service form but a comparatively small part of this total. Including an appropriate quota of those reported "missing," they may be estimated at 160,000-170,000.¹⁰ There must be added the increased mortality in the interior of the country due to the starvation blockade and the economic catastrophe following the War; then, the falling-off in the birth-rate owing to the absence of the men from their families, to the war casualties and, eventually, to losses by migration.

⁹ Calculated after the *Oesterreichische Statistik* N. F. Vol. I, part 1, pages 29 and 36.

¹⁰ See: W. Winkler *Die Totenverluste der österreichisch-ungarischen Monarchie nach Nationalitäten*, Vienna 1919.

On the other hand, the number of deaths increased during the same period from 118,363 to 166,378 or up to 140.56 per cent. This makes an excess of 118,022 deaths for the entire period under consideration. The deaths of military persons although included in these figures, contribute but little to them; for of the 325,000 deaths of military persons, who according to the army statistics have died of their wounds or of diseases at the hospitals, at least one-half occurred mainly on foreign soil at the front or along the military roads. Supposing the remainder of the wounded to be evenly distributed over the whole Monarchy, about 18,000 would fall to the share of the Republic of Austria, still leaving an excess of, at least, 100,000 civilian deaths. So, for instance, in Vienna, of which town we

¹¹ See: *Statistisches Handbuch für die Republik Oesterreich*, Vol. I, first year, Vienna 1920.

have specified figures, the number of deaths among civilians increased from 32,130 in the year 1913 to 44,130 in the year 1918. Among this number the deaths from tuberculosis amounted to 4,981 in the year 1913, to 7,381 in the year 1918 and to as many as 7,843 in the year 1919.¹² The influenza epidemic in 1918 had easy play with the population which had been weakened through lack of proper nourishment. Half of the inhabitants of the Austrian Republic were attacked by the disease and 20,458 persons succumbed to it.¹³

STRUCTURE OF POPULATION

Some of these changes in the population are made evident by a careful

At the age above fourteen there were 1,212 women to 1,000 men; in places with more than 2,000 inhabitants, we even find an average of 1,337 to 1,000. This proportion of the figures opens up bad matrimonial prospects for the young girls and a bad outlook for the future growth of the population. This structure of the population is also a disadvantage for the productivity of the Austrian Republic. While according to the United States census of 1910 there were in America but 91 women to every 100 men from twenty to sixty years of age, there were 109 women to every 100 men of that age in Austria. The proportion of the sexes alone, represented in an equal number of in-

INCREASE IN TUBERCULOSIS 1913-1918

	1913	1918
Cases of tuberculosis	5.97 per cent	7.60 per cent
Duration of illness from tuberculosis,	240.10 days	336.50 days
Deaths from tuberculosis	0.04 per cent	0.93 per cent

consideration of the structure of the population according to the age of the inhabitants, as it would appear from a study of the census of 1920. It is true this does not clearly demonstrate the aforementioned mortality among civilians for, as a matter of fact, it has victimized individuals of every age and sex. On the other hand, we can easily gather from this census the casualties among all men able to bear arms and the heavy falling off of births. The decline of the male population is in the first place of great importance to the menaced evolution of the population.

¹² See: The publications of the Public Health Department at the Ministry for Social Administration: VIII, Siegfried Rosenfeld, *Die Wirkungen des Krieges auf die Sterblichkeit in Wien*, Vienna 1920 and XI, by the same author, *Die Änderungen der Tuberkulosehäufigkeit Österreichs durch den Krieg*, Vienna 1920.

¹³ Publications of the Public Health Department at the Ministry for Social Administration: XIII, Siegfried Rosenfeld, *Die Grippeepidemie des Jahres 1918 in Österreich*, Vienna 1921.

dividuals, ensures a greater working capacity in the United States than in Austria.

Yet we have so far considered only the number of deaths, not the disabled soldiers (about 180,000) and those whose health was impaired by the so-called starvation blockade.¹⁴ Indeed, it is not only the mortality but also the morbidity which became appalling in consequence of the War. We find among every 100 subscribers to the health insurance in Vienna and Lower Austria¹⁵ an increase in tuberculosis as shown above.

Similar increases took place with other kinds of diseases. The poor and helpless old men and women are special victims; the deaths caused by old age were increased, in Vienna for instance

¹⁴ In spite of all these losses of working hands 84,000 unemployed were counted included in the census of the year 1920: *Beitrage zur Statistik der Republik Österreich*, Vol. 7.

¹⁵ Rosenfeld, Publications, etc., XI, page 2.

from 1,542 in the year 1913 to 3,279 in the year 1918.¹⁶

THE CHILDREN AND THE AGE-PYRAMID

Not less deplorable but still much more serious if we contemplate the future of the Austrian population, is the health of the children. In an examination of 144,947 school children made by Professor Pirquet at the request of the American Help the Children Administration in the year 1920, only 30,594 equal to 21.1 per cent, were found to be well fed; 81,287, equal to 56.1 per cent, were marked as "ill-fed"; 33,066 children, or 22.8 per cent, were put down as "very ill-fed." Also in other towns of Austria measurements were made with similar unfavorable results.¹⁷

The health of the infants is a matter for even graver consideration. According to a report of Dr. Poerner at the Congress for Jugendfürsorge which met in Vienna in July, 1921, 85,000 children up to six years of age were

¹⁶ Publications, etc., VIII, page 35.

¹⁷ See: Friedrich Reischl, *Die amerikanische Kinderhilfsaktion in Wien*, Vol. I-III, Vienna 1921.

assigned for medical examination by the *Mutterberatungsstellen*, mothers advice councils, in the year 1920. Of these but 10 per cent were in the condition of normal nourishment, while the nourishment of 90 per cent was disturbed, 60 per cent being really ill. Children with infectious diseases were excluded from the examination. In 19 per cent of these cases one or both of the parents were ill; in 3½ per cent, incurable.

Thus we may trace the terrible destitution working havoc at every stage of life and aggravating the heavy wounds inflicted by the War. The children forming the base of a once proud age-pyramid are growing up, small in numbers and shaken in health. Indeed an appalling outlook on future possibilities opens up before the observant eye should the present economic distress be allowed to continue. We will however not abandon ourselves to such gloomy aspects of the future; we will rather be confident of an improvement in the economic situation and hope for a more favorable evolution of the population.

CHAPTER II

The Present State of Agriculture and Forestry in the Republic of Austria

Compiled by the Central Board for the Protection of the Interests of Agriculture and Forestry

THE fundamental conditions of Austrian agriculture and the food supply closely connected with it, are in the first instance to be looked for in the orographic and climatic situation of the country. With the exception of a few small districts Austria is a mountainous land, with a prevailing continental and Alpine climate

Of a total area of about 7,785,295 hectare¹ nearly 800,000 are unproductive, so that only 7,000,000 hectare of the whole area are cultivated. Of these, 2,947,000 hectare are covered with forests, 1,274,000, with pastures, Alpine pastures, lakes, swamps and

¹ One hectare = 10,000 square meters = 2.471 acres.